APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 209 asked by Sri M. Narayana Kurup at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 27th March 1953, page 419.]

G.O. Ms. No. 2926, Public (General-A), dated 27th November 1948.

[Communal organizations—Exclusion from political activities —Instructions issued.]

(Regulation of communal organizations.)

I am directed to refer to the enclosed resolution regarding the regulation of communal organizations, passed by the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) at its meeting held on the 3rd April 1948, and to say that the Government of India have given careful consideration to the question of what steps, legislative and administrative, should be taken to prevent communal organizations from engaging in activities other than those essential for the *bona fide* religious, cultural, social and educational needs of the community. So far as legislative action is concerned, it appears to the Government of India that it is difficult for several reasons to draw at this stage a clear line between religious, cultural, social and educational activities (which may be termed non-political activities) on the one hand and other activities (which may be termed political) on the other. The main reason is that the fundamental rights to be conferred by the new Constitution may render certain types of political activities justifiable even when they are pursued by a communal organization. For instance, if some of the fundamental rights are in practice denied to members of a particular community in a particular area, then those members may justifiably organize themselves for the purpose of asserting those rights and getting the other communities to recognize them, but such an activity may well be regarded as " political " in the sense of not being " essential for the *bona fide* religious, cultural, social and educational needs of the community." The draft Constitution also recognizes the communal element in respect of certain matters besides fundamental rights, e.g., reservation of seats for minorities in the House of People and in the Legislative Assemblies of States, and special provision for the Anglo-Indian community with respect to appointment to services and educational grants. It has accordingly been decided that the implementation of the resolution in the legislative field should wait until the passing of the Constitution when it will be clearer to what extent " political " activities of communal organizations will be justifiable on account of their close connexion with fundamental rights and other provisions of the Constitution.

2. Meanwhile, as regards administrative action, the Government of India have decided that the following measures should be put into effect forthwith :—

(*a*) No notice should be taken by Government and its officers, Local bodies, State-aided institutions, etc., of petitions or representations from communal organizations on political matters,

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(*b*) Interviews should be denied to leaders of communal organizations who wish to make representations on political matters. Deputations of such communal organizations should not be received by any Minister or Officer of Government.

(*c*) No Government grant-in-aid or patronage in any form should be given to communal organizations which indulge in political activities.

3. I am to request that, if the Provincial Government see no objection, steps may be taken to give effect to the administrative measures decided upon.

ENCLOSURE.

Resolution on communal organizations passed by the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) at its meeting held on the 3rd April 1948.

Whereas it is essential for the proper functioning of democracy and the growth of national unity and solidarity that communalism should be eliminated from Indian life, this Assembly is of opinion that no communal organization which by its constitution or by the exercise of discretionary power vested in any of its officers or organs, admits to or excludes from its membership persons on grounds of religion, race and caste, or any of them, should be permitted to engage in any activities other than those essential for the *bona fide* religious, cultural, social and educational needs of the community and that all steps, legislative and administrative, necessary to prevent such activities should be taken.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS